

Dear Representative Urban,

I am a pediatric eye surgeon. As a point of fact, dissection is not necessary as preparation for a medical or veterinary career. For children or teachers who want to have access to knowledge of how bodies work, there are innumerable readily available alternatives including realistic models and computer programs. Many children who use these alternatives out-perform their peers who learn by dissecting.

I still remember my Biology class as an undergraduate at UC Berkeley, when we had fertilized eggs to crack open and evaluate. At the end of the class, the embryos, with still-beating hearts, were discarded into a trash can. 25 years later, I do not recall what in particular I learned from this particular experiment, but I still feel a sense of guilt and shame when I recall this lab "experiment". I could easily have learned any anatomy knowledge I gained as part of my undergraduate or medical school education from an excellent computer simulation such as is available today.

I respectfully request that you support HB 6329.

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